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peoples along its banks. The book is written with skill and care and will especially help those who wish to know the general aspects of the Upper Nile or to make the long excursion to Gondokoro, within about 5° of the equator.

Die Geographische Verteilung der Getreidepreise in Indien von 1861 bis 1905. Von Th. H. Engelbrecht. viii and 112 pp., 30 Maps, and 2 Diagrams. Paul Parey, Berlin, 1908. M. 5.

Contains tables showing the average prices of wheat, rice, maize and the other grains grown in India for ten-year periods, with a discussion of these data and a series of maps on which are printed the average prices of each cereal, for ten-year periods, in each of the grain-growing districts.

The South African Natives, their Progress and Present Condition. Edited by the South African Native Races Committee. xii and 247 pp. and Index. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1909. \$2.

In view of the vast importance of the native question in South Africa, this committee was organized in England, some years ago, to study the various phases of the question and report upon them. The chief results of its inquiries were printed in a book entitled "The Natives of South Africa." The present work is supplementary to the first volume. It does not go over the ground of the earlier work, but describes changes that have taken place in native affairs and gives the results of the most recent investigations. These two books, as well as the *Reports* of the Inter-Colonial Commission on Native Affairs of 1903-5 and the Natal Commission of 1906-7, are very important to all who wish to be well informed as to the socio-economic problems that have arisen in South Africa. The volume before us describes the remarkable economic and social changes now occurring among the natives, the progress of education among them, the recent developments in regard to taxation, and includes a chapter on the administration of natives in the various colonies by Sir Godfrey Lagden. On the whole, the book shows that the present conditions are improving for the natives and that they, themselves, are helping to bring about desirable changes. The book is crowded with facts and a full discussion of them.

Die Italienischen Portolane des Mittelalters. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Kartographie und Nautik. Von Konrad Kretschmer. Mit einer Kartenbeilage. viii and 688 pp. and Map. Königliche Hofbuchhandlung Ernst Siegfried Mittler und Sohn, Berlin, 1909.

This volume is number thirteen in the series of publications issued under the general editorship of Professor Albrecht Penck and bearing the general title "Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Meereskunde und des geographischen Institutes an der Universität Berlin." Dr. Kretschmer is a leading authority in the field of historical cartography, and we have in this publication, a masterly work. It appears to be a sort of by-product of the author's studies and researches in Italian archives in the years 1890-1891, at which time he was gathering material for his monumental geographical work commemorating the discovery of America. This by-product is scarcely less important than the main product of those years.

Kretschmer gives due recognition to the scholarly work of Breusing, Fischer, Fiorni, Wagner and Nordenskiöld within this field, whose conclusions he frequently quotes. When entertaining a different opinion concerning certain doubtful points he gives a clear statement of the reasons therefor.

In three main divisions the author has presented the results of his studies. The first of these divisions deals with the seafaring peoples of southern Europe to the close of the middle ages; the second with the marine maps of the middle ages; the third with the Italian Portolani, in which last division we find a discussion of the probable origin and of the character of the portolano, the portolan texts of such writers as Adam of Bremen, Morino Sanudo, Benincasas and others, concluding with a carefully prepared commentary on the nomenclature of the portolani, including practically every name given in the eighteen selected examples with explanations.

The portolan chart which is appended to the volume is a reproduction, reduced one quarter in size, of a fine parchment chart preserved in the Berlin Museum für Meereskunde, and is here described for the first time.

In the first main section the author briefly considers the character of the Mediterranean as a highway of trade for its border nations; navigation as understood in antiquity; the rise and expansion of Italian Mediterranean commerce in the middle ages. The section dealing with the marine maps of the middle ages is particularly noteworthy. As is well known, these charts have been variously described as compass charts, loxodrome charts, portolani, marine charts. They have certain common features—with rare exceptions are drawn on parchment, are crossed with numerous intersecting lines, and possess a nomenclature, chiefly coastal, in red and black. In the author's discussion of these and other characteristic features we find a most satisfactory study of these interesting charts. Though admitting that they made their appearance in Italy about the time the compass began to be used in navigation, the author does not agree that they owe their origin to the employment of that most useful instrument. He would object to the use of the term compass chart if the term compass is here considered as explanatory of origin. They were a development from earlier coastal sketches, the *periploi*, admittedly modified and improved with the increasing use of the compass. In this section there is a very interesting consideration of the influence which the compass came to exert on chart construction, particularly in problems of orientation, with an important reference to the significance of compass declination.

The author is inclined to reject the term portolano as one not appropriate for these charts. A portolano in the true meaning of the term is a harbour or port-book, as he well asserts, but he is willing to accept the term portolan chart. *Carta nautica* is the name employed in the early descriptions.

A list of seventy-five medieval marine charts and atlases drawn before 1,500 is given with a brief description of each, which description is exceedingly useful.

The third main section of the volume, dealing with the Italian portolani to the end of the middle ages, is more extensive than the preceding sections. The texts of these portolani are given, taking up over 300 pages of the work. A work of this character is a credit to German scholarship; American students of geography have scarcely entered this field.

E. L. S.

Die Eroberung von Mexiko. Drei eigenhändige Berichte von Ferdinand Cortez an Kaiser Karl V. Bearbeitet von Dr. Ernst Schultze. 642 pp., Portrait, Maps and Plans. Im Gutenberg-Verlag, 1907. M. 6.

Cortez's account of his Mexican experiences reads like a romance of discovery and exploration. His story belongs to world history. Recognizing this Dr. Schultze, general editor of this series of memoirs, has selected the personal